



Job Announcement: Full-time Land Steward

The Mercer County Park Commission seeks an enthusiastic and driven individual to assist in the stewardship and management of Mercer County's open space parcels and county parklands. Mercer County manages 7,180 acres of parkland in addition to the County's 2,690 acres of preserved open space. The Mercer County Park Commission is committed to the preservation and improvement of natural resources within the county park system.

Position Summary:

The Land Steward works with and reports directly to the County Naturalist. The Land Steward plays a significant role in the preservation of county open space by implementing stewardship initiatives and monitoring fee-owned open space. Specifically, this individual will maintain and manage the deer hunting program, invasive species management, specific restoration projects and the County's Emerald Ash Borer Plan. This position will also coordinate trail maintenance and volunteer projects and events pertaining to stewardship.

Responsibilities:

- Monitor each open space property in cooperation with Planning Department on an annual basis to perform compliance enforcement, boundary maintenance
- Assist in development of management plans for county parkland
- Manage restoration projects such as reforestations, meadow restoration, shrubland creation, pollinator habitat
- Assist with organization of citizen science initiatives; including Amphibian Crossing Project, Grassland Breeding Bird Surveys, Ash Tree Inventory.
- Organize volunteer work efforts for activities not limited to trail maintenance, reforestation, invasive plant removal, biological surveys.
- Develop GIS maps for general field work and baseline documentation
- Coordinate activities with contractors, foresters, biologists to perform restoration projects.
- Assist in monitoring of completed restoration projects
- Administer County's Deer Management Program;
- Maintain inventories of equipment and supplies.
- Teach quarterly program series, "Your Wild Yard", to encourage community to perform backyard stewardship practices.
- All other conservation work as needed.

Qualifications:

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in natural resource management, forestry, conservation, environmental science, or related subject.



- 3 + years experience in natural resource management, or land stewardship
- Knowledge of regional ecology and skills to identify flora and fauna
- Working knowledge of restoration and stewardship methods
- Identification of common and emerging invasive species and understanding of effective eradication techniques
- Familiarity with GPS and mapping technologies; basic skills using ArcGIS software
- Pesticide license or willingness to obtain one
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team as necessary
- Strong interpersonal skills, organization, attention to detail and ability to prioritize
- Physical capacity to complete hard labor in the field in many weather conditions

Compensation: \$42,000 - \$45,000, commensurate with experience.

To Apply: Please mail cover letter and resume to Jennifer Rogers, County Naturalist, The Historic Hunt House, 197 Blackwell Road, Pennington, NJ 08534 or via email to jrogers@mercercounty.org. *Applicants must be a resident of Mercer County. Application deadline: March 31, 2017.*

Mercer County is an EOE/AA/ADA Employer.



Aaron T. Watson
Executive Director



Brian M. Hughes
County Executive